



Chesapeake Bay Program

Chesapeake Bay Agreement: 1992 Amendments

In 1987, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency formally agreed to reduce and control point and nonpoint sources of pollution to attain the water quality conditions necessary to support the living resources of the Bay. TO achieve this, we agreed to develop, adopt and begin to implement a strategy to equitably achieve by the year 2000 a 40 percent reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the mainstem Chesapeake Bay. WE also agreed to reevaluate the 40 percent reduction target based on the results of modeling, monitoring and other information available to us.

BASED UPON THE 1991 NUTRIENT REDUCTION REEVALUATION, WE HAVE FOUND THAT:

We have achieved significant improvements in water quality and living resources habitat conditions in the mainstem of Chesapeake Bay.

- There is a clear need to expand our program efforts in the tributaries, since most of the spawning grounds and essential habitat are in the tributaries.
- Intensified efforts to control nonpoint sources of pollution, including agriculture and developed areas, will be needed if we are to meet our 40% nutrient reduction goal.
- We are now able to demonstrate the link between water quality conditions and the survival and health of critically important submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

Implementation of the Clean Air Act Amendments will provide additional opportunities to achieve nitrogen reductions.

Achieving a 40 percent nutrient reduction goal, in at least some cases, challenges the limits of current point and nonpoint source control technologies.

THEREFORE, TO FURTHER OUR COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE 1987 CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT, WE AGREE:

- To reaffirm our commitment to achieve an overall 40 percent reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the mainstem Chesapeake Bay by the year 2000 and to maintain at least this level of reduction thereafter.
- To amend the water quality goal of the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement to reflect the critical

importance of the tributaries in the ultimate restoration of Chesapeake Bay: "Reduce and control point and nonpoint sources of pollution to attain the water quality condition necessary to support & living resources of the Chesapeake Bay **and its tributaries.**"

- To develop and begin implementation of tributary-specific strategies by August 1993. These strategies will be designed to:
 1. Meet the mainstem nutrient reduction goals.
 2. Achieve the water quality requirements necessary to restore living resources in both the mainstem and the tributaries.
 3. Incorporate public participation in the development, review and implementation of the strategies, ensuring the broadest possible public involvement.
 4. Advance both cost-effectiveness and equity.
- To use the distribution of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Bay and its tidal tributaries, as documented by Baywide and other aerial surveys conducted since 1970, as an initial measure of progress in the restoration of living resources and water quality.
- To incorporate into the Nutrient Reduction Strategies an air deposition component which builds upon the 1990 Amendments to the federal Clean Air Act and explores additional implementation opportunities to further reduce airborne sources of nitrogen entering Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- To continue to explore improved technologies that may be cost-effective in attaining further nutrient reductions.
- To explore cooperative working relationships with the other three basin states (New York/West Virginia/Delaware) in the development of tributary-specific strategies for nutrient reduction.

By this AGREEMENT, we reaffirm our commitments made in the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement to restore and protect the ecological integrity, productivity and beneficial uses of the Chesapeake Bay system. In addition, we the undersigned agree to further our efforts through the commitments made here today which are hereby incorporated into the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

DATE: August 12, 1992

SIGNERS:

For the Commonwealth of Virginia--*Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Governor*

For the State of Maryland--*William Donald Shaefer, Governor*

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania--*Robert P. Casey, Governor*

For the District of Columbia--*Sharon Pratt Kelly, Mayor*

For the United States of America--*William K. Reilly, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission--*Bernie Fowler, Chairman*

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